



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

JAN 20 2011

Ms. Catherine Glidden
Environmental Protection Specialist
Office of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423

RE: Request for Signature: Programmatic Agreement for the Proposed
DesertXpress High-Speed Passenger Train Project

Dear Ms. Glidden:

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) hereby submits for your signature a final version of the programmatic agreement (PA) for the DesertXpress High-Speed Passenger Train Project.

FRA developed the PA pursuant to 36 CFR 800.14(b) to fulfill requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act. FRA has provided all signatory and invited concurring parties multiple opportunities to review and comment on the PA over the last several years and the enclosed version addresses previous comments.

Two copies of the PA are enclosed along with all appendices; please return one copy with eleven original signature pages, reflecting an authorized signature from your agency. FRA will compile a fully executed version (signed by all signatory parties) and provide a copy to all signatory and invited concurring parties as well as include a copy as an appendix to the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

FRA respectfully requests your agency's prompt review and signature of this PA by **February 17, 2011**. Please review and return the PA and signature pages to the address below by UPS or FedEx. Also, prior to mailing the originals, please scan a copy of one of the signature pages and email to Ms. Messenger at wendy.messenger@dot.gov. This is critical to ensure an executed copy of the PA can be included in the publication of the Final EIS.

Wendy Messenger
USDOT/Federal Railroad Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, W38-214
Washington DC 20590

If you have any questions or require any further information, please Ms. Messenger at (202) 493-6396 or via e-mail at wendy.messenger@dot.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Valenstein". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

David Valenstein
Chief, Environment and Systems Planning

Enclosures

Final Programmatic Agreement